

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4309
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PARGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USBERLIN UNN
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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, GE
SUBJECT: MORE HUMAN RIGHTS BRICKBATS IN THE GDR PRESS

1. BOTH NEUES DEUTSCHLAND AND BERLINER ZEITUNG
CARRY EDITORIAL COMMENT MARCH 12 ON THE STATEMENT BY A
US DELEGATE (TYSON) AT A MEETING OF THE UN HUMAN
RIGHTS COMMISSION IN GENEVA ON THE US ROLE IN THE CHILEAN
COUP. IN AN EDITORIAL ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE, ND
STATES THAT US PARTICIPATION IN PREPARING THE 1973 COUP
WAS ALREADY KNOWN, BUT THAT MORE IMPORTANT IS THE CURRENT
POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID THAT THE
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IMPERIALIST STATES ARE PROVIDING TO CHILE.

2. THE BZ EDITORIAL CALLS THE STATEMENT IN
QUESTION A "CLARIFYING FAUX PAS" WHICH COMES AT A
TIME WHEN THE "PUBLIC OPINION MAKERS" IN THE WEST
ARE TRYING TO PRESENT THEMSELVES AS DEFENDERS OF
HUMAN RIGHTS. BZ CLAIMS THAT PRESSURE FROM OTHER

CONTRIES AT GENEVA MADE THE US DELEGATE RETREAT, SINCE THE ROLE OF "PROSECUTOR AND JUDGE ON HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS" NO LONGER SEEMED TO FIT. BZ STATES THAT THE FACT THAT WASHINGTON DISTANCED ITSELF FROM THE CHILE STATEMENT SHOWED THAT IT DID NOT WANT THE "ANTI-COMMUNIST CONCEPT" OF A HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN SPOILED. THIS DENIAL BZ ARGUES, SHOWS THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION IS PREPARED TO COVER UP THE POLICIES OF EARLIER GOVERNMENTS, AND THAT IT CONTINUES TO SUPPORT POLICIES IN VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

3. EAST BERLIN PAPERS MARCH 12 ALSO CARRY EXCERPTS FROM THE TEXT OF A LETTER FROM BEN CHAVIS TO THE PRESIDENT ASKING HOW THE GOVERNMENT CAN PROCLAIM HUMAN RIGHTS AS AN ELEMENT OF US FOREIGN POLICY WHEN CONTINUED VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS ALLOWED DOMESTICALLY. THE LETTER IS RUN WITH A PICTURE OF CHAVIS AND A DESCRIPTION OF THE WILMINGTON 10.

4. IN ADDITION, ND PRINTED A SHORT ITEM MARCH 14 ON THE CARTER-CALLAGHAN MEETING IN WASHINGTON REPORTING THAT THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN TO CARTER ABOUT THE US HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN DIRECTED AGAINST THE SOCIALIST STATES. ND HAS CALLAGHAN STATING THAT SUCH ACTIONS COULD HARM EAST-WEST RELATIONS.

5. COMMENT: THE ND PIECE CONTAINS A SHORT PARAGRAPH ON THE TYSON STATEMENT WHILE BZ USES IT AS AN IMPORTANT POINT IN ITS EDITORIAL. THE ND PIECE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH PRESUMABLY REFLECTS OFFICIAL SED OPINION, IS SOMEWHAT LESS POINTED THAN THE SEMI-OFFICIAL BZ. BOTH ARTICLES, HOWEVER, CONTINUE RECENT GDR CRITICISM OF THE US ADMINISTRATION, PARTICULARLY FOR STARTING A HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES WHILE PURSUING POLICIES ALLEGEDLY IN VIOLATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE US. POLANSKY

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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